

TITLE:

The personality of the individual in the process of attaining social status – from social reproduction to identification of the sources for intergenerational upward social mobility.

AUTHOR:

Tereza Bariekzahyová

DEPARTMENT:

Department of Psychology

SUPERVISOR:

Doc. PhDr. Karel Hnilica, CSc.

ABSTRACT:

The thesis, in which the view through the sociological prism is enhanced by the lens of psychology, theoretically and empirically examines non-cognitive personality traits and characteristics ('Big Five', Self-esteem, Locus of Control, Willpower), within the context of the social and psychological aspects of attaining social status (influences by one's family, peers and teachers, and others), with a specific focus on intergenerational upward mobility and the identification of its sources. Research for this paper was designed as a combination of (primarily) representative questionnaire surveys among the adult population in the Czech Republic, and qualitative interviews with selected individuals who have shown intergenerational upward mobility. The results show that, aside from cognitive skills, the statistically less relevant and hitherto somewhat neglected non-cognitive traits and characteristics of individuals do play a role in the process of attaining social status. The author has been able to empirically identify some of the sources for upward social mobility, which in practical terms may help resolve unanswered questions and issues of educational and social inequality.

KEYWORDS:

social status, personality, non-cognitive traits and characteristics, intergenerational upward social mobility